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32
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The FEED SITUATION

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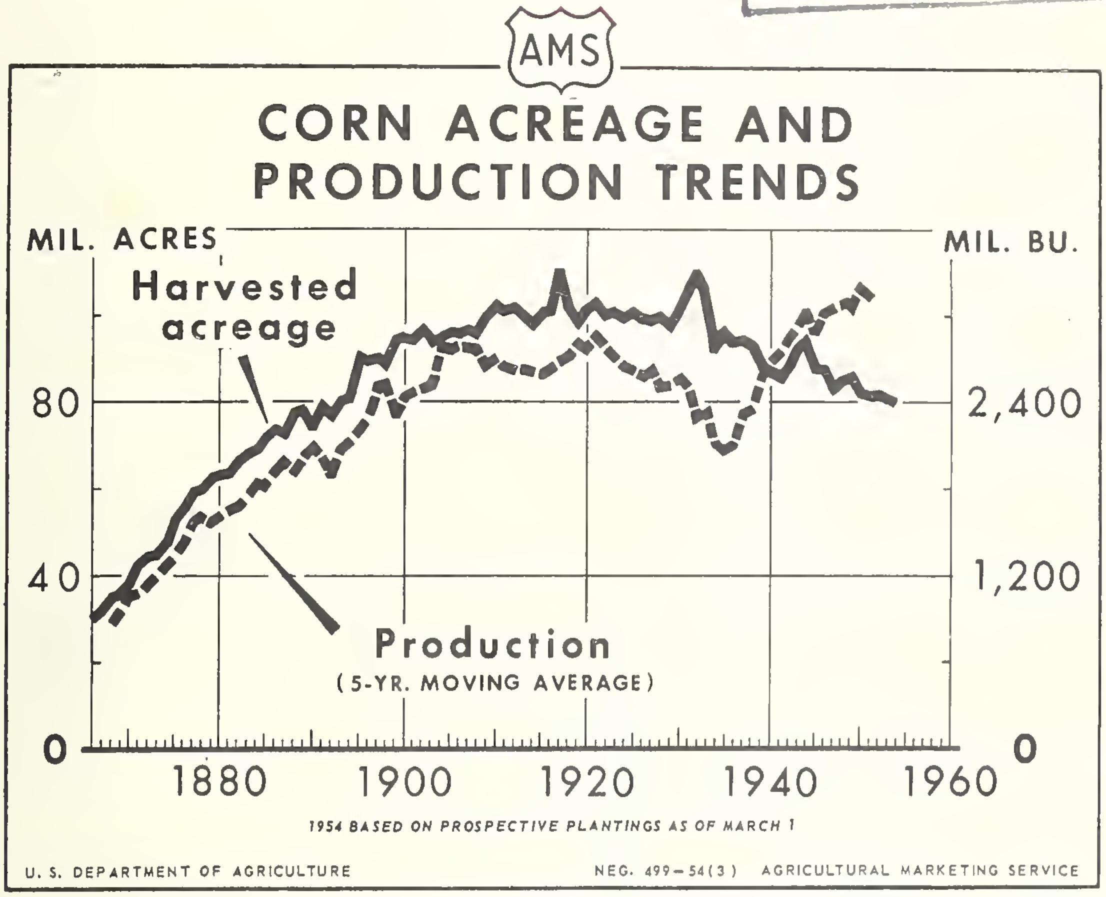


CORN ACREAGE AND PRODUCTION TRENDS

1954 BASED ON PROSPECTIVE PLANTINGS AS OF MARCH 1

U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE NEG. 499-54(3) AGRICULTURAL MARKETING SERVICE

If farmers carry out their March 1 planting intentions, corn acreage this year will be slightly smaller than in 1953. A reduction is in prospect in the Corn Belt, where acreage allotments are in effect, while a slightly larger acreage is in prospect for the South. The decline in the national total continued the downward trend of the past 2 decades, bringing corn acreage to about the 1894 level. Corn production, on the other hand, has increased sharply since the thirties, reflecting increasing yield per acre. In recent years, production has been higher than in any previous period, with a record crop being harvested in 1948. Production is shown here as a 5-year moving average to eliminate the wide year-to-year fluctuations.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
AGRICULTURAL MARKETING SERVICE

AGRICULTURE - WASHINGTON

Table 1.- Statistical Summary

PRICES

Item	Unit	1952		1953		1953-54		
		Jan.	Feb.	Jan.	Feb.	Dec.	Jan.	Feb.
		Cents	Cents	Cents	Cents	Cents	Cents	Cents
Grains and Hay								
Corn, No. 3 Yellow, Chicago	Bushel	191.3	180.2	160.5	155.1	156.3	155.3	155.3
Price received by farmers, U. S.	Bushel	168.0	165.0	148.0	143.0	141.0	142.0	143.0
Oats, No. 2 White, Chicago	Bushel	100.5	95.1	88.8	81.6	80.0	83.9	81.3
No. 2 White, Minneapolis	Bushel	96.4	90.5	84.9	79.6	79.1	80.5	78.2
Price received by farmers, U. S.	Bushel	93.8	89.0	82.1	77.3	76.7	77.9	78.1
Barley, No. 3, Minneapolis	Bushel	147.1	140.7	145.6	139.5	143.6	147.4	144.1
Price received by farmers, U. S.	Bushel	142.0	138.0	137.0	128.0	115.0	116.0	115.0
Grain sorghums, price received by farmers, U. S.	100 pounds	253.0	251.0	274.0	265.0	221.0	229.0	232.0
Wheat, No. 2 Hard Winter, Kansas City	Bushel	251.9	249.2	240.2	235.8	237.5	237.9	239.3
		Dollars	Dollars	Dollars	Dollars	Dollars	Dollars	Dollars
Hay, No. 1 Alfalfa, baled, Kansas City	Ton	37.60	36.80	37.75	37.50	30.75	30.75	30.75
Price received by farmers, baled, U. S.	Ton	25.50	25.40	26.40	25.60	23.00	23.80	23.70
Byproduct Feeds (bagged)								
Standard bran, Minneapolis	Ton	66.10	62.75	54.00	51.60	46.30	49.50	49.00
Buffalo	Ton	72.10	70.10	61.90	59.90	50.80	55.00	55.90
Price paid by farmers, U. S.	100 pounds	4.03	4.04	3.66	3.58	3.13	3.22	3.27
Standard middlings, Minneapolis	Ton	65.90	62.75	53.50	50.60	46.60	48.40	49.40
Buffalo	Ton	71.90	70.40	60.60	58.50	50.80	54.25	56.10
Price paid by farmers, U. S.	100 pounds	4.12	4.12	3.74	3.65	3.23	3.29	3.33
Cottonseed meal, 41 percent protein, Memphis	Ton	83.50	83.50	82.40	78.25	65.25	68.40	67.50
Linseed meal, 36 percent protein, Minneapolis	Ton	72.50	72.50	87.25	82.00	70.60	73.40	73.90
28 percent protein, San Francisco	Ton	79.00	79.00	93.25	93.50	83.30	85.60	86.50
Soybean meal, 44 percent protein, Chicago	Ton	86.65	87.00	80.10	78.10	82.15	84.60	88.10
Price paid by farmers, U. S.	100 pounds	5.20	5.30	5.09	4.93	4.78	4.86	5.01
Peanut meal, 45 percent protein, S. E. milling points	Ton	93.05	91.90	83.55	80.15	72.15	75.95	76.70
White hominy feed, Chicago	Ton	71.40	64.70	60.90	56.90	59.90	57.90	57.45
Gluten feed, 23 percent protein, Chicago	Ton	60.80	68.00	67.00	67.00	52.80	56.75	59.00
Tankage digester, 60 percent protein, Chicago	Ton	125.10	125.20	106.25	93.45	97.55	99.55	101.90
Meat scraps, 50 percent protein, Chicago	Ton	120.90	122.50	101.10	88.10	91.60	90.05	93.10
Fish meal, 67 percent protein, San Francisco	Ton	160.75	160.75	160.75	160.75	154.80	154.95	154.10
Alfalfa meal, No. 1 fine, Kansas City	Ton	64.30	60.25	52.00	47.90	41.25	43.00	41.50
Mixed dairy feed, 16 percent protein, price paid by farmers, U. S.	100 pounds	4.43	4.45	4.26	4.19	3.87	3.94	3.99
Laying mash, price paid by farmers, U. S.	100 pounds	5.30	5.31	5.12	5.02	4.77	4.83	4.86
Scratch feed, price paid by farmers, U. S.	100 pounds	4.67	4.68	4.50	4.43	4.26	4.30	4.31

INDEX NUMBERS OF PRICES

		Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent
Feed grains, price received by farmers, U. S.	1910-14=100	250	244	224	215	208	210	211
Eleven principal high-protein feeds, terminal markets	1935-39=100	270	271	257	248	235	243	249
Five oilseed meals	1935-39=100	274	272	259	251	240	248	254
Tankage, meat scraps, and fish meal	1935-39=100	273	273	231	213	219	220	224
Gluten feed, brewers' dried grains, and distillers' dried grains	1935-39=100	246	262	271	271	224	237	246
Feed, price paid by farmers, U. S.	1910-14=100	254	255	244	239	220	223	225

LIVESTOCK-FEED PRICE RATIOS 1/

(February average)									
Hog-corn, Chicago 2/	1933-52= 13.0	Bushel	9.3	9.6	11.4	12.7	15.5	16.2	16.7
Hog-corn, U. S. farm price	1933-52= 13.4	Bushel	10.8	10.4	12.0	13.5	16.2	17.3	17.7
Beef-steer-corn, Chicago 3/	1933-52= 15.4	Bushel	17.9	18.7	16.2	15.1	15.1	15.4	14.8
Butterfat-feed, U. S.	1933-52= 24.4	Pound	22.9	23.9	20.8	20.7	22.2	21.7	21.3
Milk-feed, U. S.	1933-52= 1.32	Pound	1.32	1.31	1.29	1.26	1.37	1.30	1.22
Egg-feed, U. S.	1943-52= 10.9	Pound	9.5	8.2	11.3	19.6	12.9	12.1	11.8
Farm chicken-feed, U. S. 4/	1943-52= 7.6	Pound	5.8	5.9	5.7	6.1	5.5	5.7	5.6
Commercial broiler-feed, U. S. 5/	---	Pound	---	---	5.2	5.2	4.5	4.7	4.3

1/ Units of corn or other concentrate ration equal in value to 100 pounds of hog or beef-steer, one pound of chicken, butterfat, or milk, or one dozen eggs. 2/ Based on packer and shipper purchases of hogs and No. 3 Yellow corn. 3/ Based on price of beef-steers sold out of first hands for slaughter, and No. 3 Yellow corn. 4/ New series; for earlier years see Agricultural Prices, April 1953. 5/ Not reported prior to January 1953.

Prices compiled from Wall Street Journal, Chicago edition, Minneapolis Daily Market Record, Kansas City Grain Market Review, and reports of the Agricultural Marketing Service.

THE FEED SITUATION

Approved by the Outlook and Situation Board, March 26, 1954

SUMMARY

The acreage planted to feed grains in 1954 will be above 1953 and the 1948-52 average, if farmers carry out their March 1 intentions. The prospective corn acreage is slightly smaller than in 1953, and the smallest in 60 years. Acreages of other feed crops, however, are expected to be increased substantially as these crops are planted on land taken out of wheat, cotton, and corn. On March 1 farmers planned increases over 1953 acreages of 7 percent in oats, 47 percent in barley, 28 percent in all sorghums, and 3 percent in hay.

No forecast is made of production at this time. Assuming 1948-52 average yields by States on the prospective acreages, however, feed grain production would be about 123 million tons, 6 million tons larger than in 1953, and a little above the average of recent years. With the carryover next October 1 expected to be around 30 million tons, and the supply of other feed concentrates a little larger than this year, the total feed concentrate supply for 1954-55 would be equal to the record supply in 1950-51 and about 5 percent larger than in 1953-54. In relation to the prospective number of livestock to be fed, such a supply would be slightly larger than in 1953-54, and near record. The number of grain-consuming animal units to be fed in 1954-55 is expected to be 3 to 4 percent larger than in 1953-54, since hog numbers are increasing from the low level in 1953 and increases are indicated for poultry and milk cows.

Acreage allotments for 1954 crops of corn, wheat, and cotton have an important role in farmers' plans for feed crops this year. A small reduction in corn acreage is planned in the Corn Belt, while a larger acreage is in prospect in the South. The actual reduction in the Corn Belt may be greater than indicated by March 1 intentions, since many farmers did not have their individual farm allotments at the time they reported their intentions. Increases in other feed crops will be largely in the Great Plains, and the Western and Southern regions, where land is being taken out of wheat and cotton.

The price support on 1954 corn in the commercial corn-producing area will be based on the national average rate of not less than $1.62 per bushel, 2 cents higher than in 1953. Farmers in the commercial area who comply with their corn acreage allotments will be eligible for the full 90 percent support. The support price in the noncommercial area will be 75 percent of the rates determined on the basis of 90 percent of parity.

Market receipts of corn have been much below average since October and November, when movement was heavy. The quality of corn received at the principal Midwestern markets has been much better than average. Through February 15 of the 1953-54 loan period, which ends May 31, farmers had placed 292 million bushels of 1953 corn under price support. In addition, around 525 million bushels of old corn remained under loan or in CCC ownership. Present indications are that much of the total corn stocks this spring and summer will be held under the price-support program, which will have a strengthening effect on corn prices.

Prices of feed grains and high-protein feeds in March were close to the levels of a year earlier, having advanced from the low levels reached last fall. Although corn prices have advanced since November, the national average price received by farmers has remained around 15 to 20 cents below the national average support price in recent months. The price of soybean meal has advanced more than most other feeds, and in March was about $15.00 per ton higher than a year earlier, reflecting the relatively short supply this year. Soybean meal prices probably will continue relatively high until new-crop meal becomes available this fall.

PROSPECTS FOR 1954-55

Slightly Smaller Corn Acreage; Much Larger Acreages of Other Feed Crops in Prospect

Acreage allotments on wheat, corn, and cotton have an important bearing on acreages of feed crops this year. Reports from farmers in early March indicated their intentions to plant 81.0 million acres of corn, slightly less than was planted in 1953. On the other hand, they plan to seed a record large acreage of oats and the largest acreages of barley and grain sorghum in recent years. Prospective increases in acreages of these grains over 1953 are as follows: oats 7 percent, barley 47 percent, and all sorghums 28 percent. The prospective 1954 acreage of feed grains is 11.6 million acres or 8 percent larger than in 1953. In addition, farmers planned to harvest nearly 2 million more acres of hay.

Farmers' intentions in early March indicated only a small reduction in corn acreage in the commercial corn-producing area, where acreage allotments are in effect this year. In the North Central region, which includes much of the commercial area, farmers indicated their intentions to reduce corn acreage 2.2 percent. Farmers in the area may make further adjustments in their acreage plans now that they have more information on their individual 1954 allotments. If corn acreage in the Corn Belt is not reduced more than indicated in March, it would mean that participation in the 1954 acreage allotment program would be considerably less than in 1950, when the acreage planted in the commercial area was reduced about 9 percent from the preceding year.

A record acreage of 47.3 million acres of oats is in prospect for 1954, 7 percent larger than in 1953. While increases over 1953 are planned for most States, percentage increases were greatest in the southern and western States. A sharp increase in barley acreage is planned, with marked increases in prospect in North Dakota, Kansas, Nebraska, Missouri, and most of the important southwestern and western producing States, where land is being taken out of wheat and cotton. The 14.1 million acres in prospect is 47 percent larger than in 1953 and the largest since 1944. A sharp increase also is in prospect for grain sorghums, principally as a result of acreage allotments on wheat and cotton. The prospective 18.7 million acres of all sorghums is 28 percent larger than last year and the largest since 1941.

March 1 Indications Point to a Larger Feed Concentrate Supply in 1954-55

Based on indications in March this year, the total supply of feed concentrates in 1954-55 would be about the same as the record supply in 1949-50 and about 6 percent larger than for the current feeding season. Much, however, will depend upon the growing season, which will be the major factor influencing the size of the feed crops. While no forecast is made of production at this time, with 1948-52 average yields by States on the March 1 prospective acreage of feed grains, 1954 production would total about 123 million tons, 6 million tons more than in 1953, and a little above the average of recent years, Although corn production would be a little smaller than in 1953, production of the other feed grains would be considerably larger, reflecting the relatively large acreage of these grains.

The carryover of feed grains into 1954-55 is expected to total about 30 million tons, or close to the record of 30.6 million tons in 1950, and about a tenth larger than the 27 million-ton carryover in 1953-54. This would give a domestic supply of feed grains of about 153 million tons, which would be about equal to the record supply in 1950-51, and about 10 percent above the 1947-51 average. Supplies of byproduct feeds are expected to be a little over 22 million tons, and the quantity of wheat and rye fed plus imported feed grains probably will be around 4.5 million tons, or near the average of recent years. Based on these early prospects, the supply of feed concentrates for 1954-55 would total about 180 million tons, which would be 6 percent larger than in 1953-54 and about the same as the record supply of 1950-51. Assuming a 3 or 4 percent increase in the number of grain-consuming units to be fed in 1954-55, the supply per animal unit would be slightly larger than in 1953-54, but below the 1949-50 record.

If yields per acre by States equal the 1948-52 average, the 1954 production of corn on the prospective acreage would be about 3.1 billion bushels and the total supply would be around 4.0 billion bushels, a little larger than in 1953-54 and near the 1949-50 record. Based on present indications, the corn carryover next October 1 will be around 900 million bushels, about a sixth larger than in 1953. Practically all of the carryover of corn into 1954-55, except working stocks of 150 to 200 millions bushels,

Table 2.- Acreages of feed grains, hay, and related crops, 1943-52 average, 1952, 1953, and prospective plantings for 1954

Crop	Average 1943-52	1952	1953	Prospective 1954 1/	1954 as a percentage of: Average	1954 as a percentage of: 1953
	1,000 acres	1,000 acres	1,000 acres	1,000 acres	Percent	Percent
Corn	87,383	82,409	81,403	81,037	92.7	99.6
Oats	43,927	42,766	44,015	47,256	107.6	107.4
Barley	12,454	9,359	9,597	14,095	113.2	146.9
Sorghum grains 2/	7,254	5,061	6,137	3/10,400	143.4	169.5
Total, 4 feed grains	151,018	139,595	141,152	152,788	101.2	108.2
All sorghums	14,513	12,381	14,604	18,664	128.6	127.8
Wheat	73,118	78,337	78,741	4/63,232	86.5	80.3
Soybeans for beans 2/	11,559	14,338	14,366	3/16,200	140.2	112.8
Flaxseed	4,223	3,444	4,560	5,383	127.5	118.0
Peanuts 5/	2,762	1,464	1,538	3/ 1,562	56.6	101.6
Sugar beets	796	719	792	944	118.6	119.2
All hay 2/	74,629	74,454	73,918	75,793	101.6	102.5

1/ Based on farmers' acreage intentions on March 1. 2/ Acreage harvested. 3/ Prospective acreages for 1954 based on usual relationship between total acreages and acreage harvested: sorghum for grain; soybeans for beans; and peanuts picked and threshed. 4/ Winter wheat seeded (46,575,000) plus the prospective acreage (16,657,000 acres) for spring wheat. 5/ Picked and threshed.

Table 3.- Feed concentrate supplies, total and per animal unit, United States, average 1947-51, annual 1949-54

Season beginning	Feed grains: Carry-over 1/	Feed grains: Production 2/	Feed grains: Total supply	Other feed concentrates 3/	Total supply feed concentrates	Grain-consuming animal units 4/	Supply per animal unit
	Mil. tons	Mil. tons	Mil. tons	Mil. tons	Mil. tons	Millions	Tons
Average 1947-51	22.3	117.0	139.3	25.2	164.5	165.3	1.00
1949	30.4	120.6	151.0	25.2	176.2	166.1	1.06
1950	30.6	122.0	152.6	26.0	178.6	172.3	1.04
1951	28.7	112.9	141.6	27.0	168.6	174.1	.97
1952	20.2	119.7	139.9	27.9	167.8	169.4	.99
1953 5/	27.0	117.2	144.2	26.3	170.5	167.0	1.02
1954 6/	30.0	7/123.0	153.0	27.0	180.0	173.0	1.04

1/ Stocks of corn and sorghum grains on October 1, oats and barley on July 1. 2/ Corn for all purposes, oats, barley, and sorghum grain. 3/ Imported feed grains and wheat, rye, and byproduct feeds fed to livestock. 4/ Grain-consuming animal units fed during the October-September feeding season. 5/ Preliminary. 6/ Tentative estimates based on indications in March. 7/ Based on acreage intentions on March 1 and 1948-52 average yields by States.

probably will be under loan or owned by CCC. However, if farmers carry out their March 1 intentions, much of the 1954 corn would not be eligible for price support, since most farmers will exceed their acreage allotments. This would be expected to result in corn prices again declining considerably below the support level, especially if a big corn crop is produced this year.

A crop of about 1.4 billion bushels of oats would be produced, if 1948-52 average yields are attained on the record acreage in prospect for 1954. Allowing for a little smaller carryover than in 1953, the domestic oat supply would be around 12 percent larger than the supply of 1,471 million bushels for 1953-54. Imports, however, probably will not be as large as in the past two or three years, when 60 to 70 million bushels were imported annually.

The 1954 barley production, with 1948-52 average yields, would total about 330 million bushels, over a third larger than in 1953. This would be the largest crop since 1942. With a larger carryover of barley in prospect, the domestic supply of barley would total nearly 400 million bushels compared with 292 million in 1953. If the 1954 growing season is average or better, the sorghum grain supply will be nearly double the 116 million bushels of last year and more than double the small supply 2 years ago. With 1948-52 average yields by States, a crop of 208 million bushels would be produced, which would be the second largest crop on record.

Composition of Oil Meal Supply Expected to Be Reversed in 1954-55

The larger acreage of soybeans in prospect for 1954, with an average growing season, may result in a reversal of the current oilseed meal supply situation. During the current season the production of soybean meal has been relatively small, reflecting the short 1953 soybean crop. Output of cottonseed meal, on the other hand, has been the largest in recent years. The 1954 prospective acreage of soybeans for harvest as beans is 16.2 million acres, 13 percent larger than the acreage harvested in 1953. With 1948-52 average yields by States, a crop of 340 million bushels would be produced, about 80 million more than in 1953. This would provide a record supply of soybeans for crushing and would probably mean a record supply of soybean meal in 1954-55. Acreage allotments and marketing quotas on cotton, on the other hand, are expected to result in a somewhat smaller production of cottonseed cake and meal. Hence, the supply situation likely will shift from large supplies of cottonseed meal relative to soybean meal this year, to very large supplies of soybean meal relative to cottonseed meal in 1954-55. The prospective acreage of flaxseed is 5.4 million acres, 18 percent larger than last year. The production of linseed cake and meal in 1954-55 probably will at least be as large as for the current season.

The prospective changes in supplies of soybean and cottonseed meals may reverse the current price relationship between the two feeds. So far this season, soybean meal prices have been very high in relation to cottonseed meal prices. With the much larger soybean meal supply in prospect for 1954-55, soybean meal prices probably will become low relative to prices of cottonseed cake and meal and other protein feeds.

Based on these early indications, the total production of oilseed cake and meal in 1954-55 may reach a record level of around 9 million tons, nearly a tenth above the expected production in 1953-54.

Table 4 .- Feed grains: Planted acreage, yield, and production, United States, average 1947-51, annual 1947-54

Year	Corn 1/			Oats			Barley		
	Planted acreage	Yield per planted acre	Production	Planted acreage	Yield per planted acre	Production	Planted acreage	Yield per planted acre	Production
	Million acres	Bushels	Million bushels	Million acres	Bushels	Million bushels	Million acres	Bushels	Million bushels
Average 1947-51	84.7	35.8	3,031	43.3	30.6	1,323	12.0	23.2	278
1947	85.0	27.7	2,355	42.1	28.0	1,176	12.0	23.5	282
1948	85.5	42.2	3,605	43.8	33.1	1,450	13.1	24.2	316
1949	86.7	37.3	3,239	43.3	29.0	1,255	11.1	21.3	237
1950	82.9	36.9	3,058	45.5	31.0	1,410	13.1	23.2	304
1951	83.3	34.8	2,899	41.7	31.7	1,321	10.9	23.4	254
1952	82.4	39.8	3,279	42.8	29.5	1,260	9.4	24.1	226
1953 2/	81.4	39.0	3,177	44.0	27.6	1,216	9.6	25.1	241
1954 3/	81.0	38.3	3,100	47.3	29.6	1,400	14.1	23.4	330

1/ For all purposes. 2/ Preliminary. 3/ Indicated 1954 acreage from March 1 intentions of farmers. Production for 1954 computed on the basis of the prospective plantings, assuming yields per planted acre by States equal to the 1948-52 average.

Table 5.- Hay: Acreage, yield, production, and supply per animal unit, United States, average 1947-51, annual 1947-54

Year	Acreage	Yield	Production	Carry-over May 1	Total supply	Roughage-consuming animal units 1/	Supply per animal unit
	Million acres	Tons	Million tons	Million tons	Million tons	Millions	Tons
Average 1947-51	73.4	1.37	100.5	14.9	115.4	69.0	1.67
1947	74.7	1.35	100.6	15.8	116.4	69.0	1.69
1948	71.8	1.34	96.2	14.7	110.9	67.2	1.65
1949	71.5	1.33	95.1	14.6	109.7	67.2	1.63
1950	74.4	1.38	102.5	14.2	116.7	69.3	1.68
1951	74.4	1.45	108.0	15.0	123.0	72.2	1.70
1952	74.5	1.40	104.3	15.0	119.3	75.4	1.58
1953 2/	73.9	1.42	105.3	14.7	120.0	76.3	1.57
1954	3/75.8	1.39	4/105.0	5/15.0	5/120.0	5/76.5	5/1.57

1/ Animal units fed during the feeding season beginning October. For weights see table 68, page 50, Feed Statistics, January 1953. 2/ Preliminary. 3/ Indicated acreage for harvest based on farmers' acreage intentions on March 1. 4/ Production with 1948-52 yields per acre by States on the prospective hay acreage. 5/ Tentative estimates based on indications in March.

Farmers Plan to Harvest Larger Acreage of Hay in 1954

The prospective acreage of hay to be cut in 1954 is 75.8 million acres, 2.5 percent larger than in 1953 and slightly above the 1943-52 average. With 1948-52 average yields, production would total about 105 million tons, about the same as in 1953. Assuming a carryover on May 1 of about 15 million tons, the total hay supply would be about the same as in 1953-54, both in total and per animal unit. If the growing season is more nearly normal, hay supplies would be better distributed than in either of the past 2 years, when drought materially reduced production in the Southwest and some sections of the Midwest.

Price Support on 1954 Feed Grains

The Department of Agriculture announced on March 19 that minimum price support rates for 1954-crop corn in the commercial and noncommercial corn-producing area will be based on $1.62 per bushel, which is 90 percent of the February 15 parity price. The national average loan rate in 1953 was $1.60 per bushel. Price support rates for 1954 in the commercial area will reflect the full 90 percent level. To be eligible for corn price support in the commercial producing area, producers must be in compliance with corn acreage allotments. The rates in the noncommercial area, where no allotments are in effect, will be 75 percent of the rates determined on the basis of 90 percent of parity. County rates will be announced later, and will be revised up if necessary to reflect any increase in parity price as of October 1, 1954. Price supports will be available from time of harvest through May 31, and will mature July 31, 1955.

Price supports were announced on 1954 crops of other feed grains last October. The national average support price for oats will be 75 cents per bushel, barley $1.15 per bushel, and grain sorghums $2.28 per hundredweight. All of the loans are based on 85 percent of parity at the time of the announcement. The loans will be available from time of harvest through January 31, 1955.

RECENT DEVELOPMENTS

January 1 Stocks of Feed Grains Near Record per Animal Unit

Stocks of feed grains--corn, oats barley, and sorghum grains--in all positions on January 1 totaled 95 million tons, 4 million tons larger than a year earlier, but 5 percent below the record stocks on January 1, 1951. In relation to the estimated number of grain-consuming units to be fed during the 1953-54 season, stocks were 6 percent larger than a year ago and only a little below the record level for the three years 1949-51. Disappearance of feed grains during the remainder of 1953-54 is expected to be about the same as a year earlier, and the total carryover of feed grains into the 1954-55 season probably will be near the record of 30.6 million tons in 1950-51.

Table 6 .- Feed grains: January 1 stocks, total and per animal unit, average 1947-51, annual 1951-54

Year	January 1 stocks 1/ Corn	Oats	Barley	Sorghum grains	Total	Grain-consuming animal units 2/	Stocks per animal unit
	Million tons	Million tons	Million tons	Million tons	Million tons	Million	Pounds
Average							
1947-51	64.9	14.2	4.9	3.0	87.0	162.6	1,070
1951	73.1	15.1	5.9	6.0	100.1	172.3	1,162
1952	66.0	14.6	4.9	4.2	89.7	174.1	1,030
1953	71.6	13.8	3.9	1.5	90.8	169.4	1,072
1954	74.9	13.5	4.3	2.2	94.9	167.0	1,137

1/ Stocks in all positions, including Government-owned. 2/ Grain-consuming animal units fed during feeding year beginning preceding October 1.

Table 7 .- Corn, oats, and barley: Domestic disappearance, by quarters, United States, average 1946-50, annual 1951-53

Year beginning October	October-December 1/	January-March	April-June	July-September	Total October-September
	Million bushels	Million bushels	Million bushels	Million bushels	Million bushels
			Corn		
Average					
1946-50	1,206	725	523	434	2,888
1950	1,264	727	563	501	3,055
1951	1,260	821	524	471	3,076
1952	1,162	732	498	466	2,858
1953 2/	1,232				
			Oats		
Average					
1946-50	258	350	286	431	1,325
1950	274	356	310	440	1,380
1951	288	356	303	463	1,410
1952	256	369	266	420	1,311
1953 2/	264				
			Barley		
Average					
1946-50	59	64	57	74	254
1950	57	70	62	70	259
1951	65	64	57	67	253
1952	55	63	51	62	231
1953 2/	67				
			Total (million tons)		
Average					
1946-50	39.3	27.5	20.6	20.8	108.2
1950	41.1	27.7	22.2	22.8	113.8
1951	41.4	30.2	20.9	22.3	114.8
1952	38.0	27.9	19.4	21.2	106.5
1953 2/	40.3				

1/ Includes all corn in silage, part of which is consumed after January 1.
2/ Preliminary.

Total stocks of corn on hand January 1 were 15 percent above the 1947-51 average and practically equal to the record on that date of 1950. Stocks of other feed grains, however, were all below the 1947-51 average, although barley and sorghum grain stocks were larger than a year earlier. Record stocks of good quality corn were on hand in the North Central region, exceeding last year's large stocks by 4 percent. Stocks of corn were again well below the postwar average in much of the South, although they were generally larger than a year earlier.

October-December Disappearance of Feed Grains Heavier Than a Year Earlier

The combined domestic disappearance of corn, oats, and barley during the first quarter of the 1953-54 feeding season (October-December) was 6 percent larger than the light disappearance in that quarter of 1952. It also was a little above the 1946-50 average, but smaller than in the years 1949-51. Exports of the 3 feed grains during October-January totaled 1,439,000 tons, nearly a third less than a year earlier.

October-December disappearance of corn for all purposes totaled 1,270 million bushels, a little above the 1946-50 average, and 62 million bushels larger than in the same quarter of 1952. Of this quantity, 1,232 million bushels were used domestically and 38 million exported. Domestic disappearance of oats and barley also exceeded a year earlier. Exports of oats were negligible, while 7 million bushels of barley were exported--5.4 million less than a year earlier. Total disappearance of sorghum grains during October-December was about the same as a year earlier.

Market Receipts of Corn Below Average; Quality Very Good

Following the heavy movement in October-November, receipts of corn at primary markets have been below average as a large quantity moved under price support. During October-February, receipts at primary markets totaled 166 million bushels, 7 percent below 1952-53, and the smallest for the period since 1947-48. About 50 million bushels of corn were sold by CCC during October-February, part of which would move through primary markets.

The quality of the corn received at primary markets this year has been much better than average. During December-February 57 percent of the corn inspected at 9 principal midwestern markets graded No. 2 or better, 24 percent No. 3, and only 19 percent No. 4 or below. (see table 8). This was even better than in 1952, when only 36 percent of the corn graded No. 2 or better, and 69 percent graded No. 3 or better. It is in sharp contrast with 1951-52, when only 15 percent of the receipts graded No. 3 or better. During 1947-51 an average of 42 percent of the corn graded No. 3 or better.

Large Volume of 1953 Feed Grains Placed Under Price Support

The quantity of feed grains placed under loan and purchase agreement from the 1953 crops probably will total considerably larger than the 12.5 million tons of 1952-53, and may approach the record of 18 million tons in 1948-49. Through February 15, 11.4 million tons of feed grains had been placed under price support compared with 7.1 million in 1952-53.

Loans and purchase agreements were available on 1953 oats, barley, and sorghum grains through January 31. A record quantity of oats, about 60 million bushels, was placed under price support, while the 43 million bushels of barley was second only to the record of 49 million bushels in 1948-49. While the quantity of 1953 sorghum grain placed under price support was much larger than in the two preceding years, it fell considerably below the large quantities from the 1949 and 1950 crops, when production was much larger than in 1953. The 46 million bushels of sorghum grain placed under price support was equivalent to 42 percent of the 1953 crop.

Farmers have until May 31 to place their 1953 corn under price support. Through February 15 farmers had placed 292 million bushels of corn under loan and purchase agreement, a record quantity for the period. In 1948-49, when a record of 551 million bushels was placed under price support, only 211 million had been placed in the program through February. In addition to the 292 million bushels of 1953 corn placed under price support, about 525 million bushels of old corn were owned by CCC, under loan, or in process of delivery to CCC. This would mean that a total of over 800 million bushels of corn was under loan, purchase agreement, or owned by CCC about the middle of February.

The quantity of corn in the price support program will increase further during March, April, and May, as farmers are expected to place more corn under price support than CCC sells from its stocks. As the marketing season progresses and total corn stocks are reduced, an increasing percentage of the corn on hand will be held under the price support program. This is expected to result in a tight supply of "free" corn toward the close of the marketing season.

Reseal Program Announced for 1953 Feed Grains

The Department of Agriculture recently announced a reseal program for 1953-crop corn, oats, barley, and sorghum grains. Under the program farm-stored stocks of the feed grains can be resealed for another year, after maturity of the original 1953 loans. Farmers will also be able to convert 1953 purchase agreements into price support loans for the extended period and extend price support loans on 1952 reseal corn for another year. Storage payments for resealing the grains will be in line with the 1954

Table 8.- Corn: Inspected receipts by grades at principal markets, December-February, average 1947-51, annual 1951-53 1/

Grade	Average 1947-48 to 1951-52		1951-52		1952-53		1953-54	
	Cars	Percentage	Cars	Percentage	Cars	Percentage	Cars	Percentage
1	1,677	3.6	279	0.5	1,815	5.4	4,413	14.3
2	5,567	12.1	2,218	4.1	10,260	30.3	13,203	42.9
3	12,313	26.8	5,707	10.7	11,302	33.3	7,265	23.6
4	13,688	29.8	16,481	30.8	4,966	14.6	2,228	7.2
5	9,053	19.7	17,273	32.3	1,473	4.3	1,492	4.9
Sample	3,679	8.0	11,533	21.6	4,104	12.1	2,184	7.1
Total	45,977	100.0	53,491	100.0	33,920	100.0	30,785	100.0

1/ Chicago, Decatur, Kansas City, Omaha, Peoria, St. Louis, Minneapolis, Indianapolis, and Toledo.

Compiled from reports of the Grain Division, Agricultural Marketing Service.

Table 9.- Feed grains: Quantities placed under price support, 1952 and 1953 crops

Feed grain	1952			1953		
	Loan	Purchase agreement	Total	Loan	Purchase agreement	Total
	1,000 bushels	1,000 bushels	1,000 bushels	1,000 bushels	1,000 bushels	1,000 bushels
Corn (through Feb. 15) 1/	216,067	12,543	228,610	278,466	13,375	291,841
Total for season 1/	312,058	108,186	420,244			
Oats 2/	17,502	4,416	21,918	45,228	14,369	59,597
Barley 2/	7,503	2,389	9,892	35,487	7,570	43,057
Sorghum grain 2/	3,305	375	3,680	42,215	3,688	45,903

1/ Loans on corn available through May 31.
2/ Loans were available through January 31; 1953 preliminary.

Uniform Grain Storage Agreement rates. Farmers holding their grain until the maturity date for the resealed grain will receive full storage payment for the entire period. If a farmer redeems his loan prior to maturity, he will receive a storage payment for the period beginning 60 days after the maturity of the 1953 loans and continuing through the time he keeps the commodity in storage. The interest rate for extended loans will be 3½ percent, commencing at the 1953 maturity date.

Farm storage facility loans, which offer farmers up to 80 percent of the cost of new storage facilities in most States, will be available all through this year and up to June 30, 1955. These loans carry 4 percent interest and can be paid off over a 4-year period.

Reduced Production of Oilseed Meal in Prospect for Remainder of Season

The smaller production of soybean meal in prospect for the remainder of the 1953-54 feeding season than in the same period of last year will mean a somewhat smaller total supply of oilseed cake and meal available for livestock feeding. Production of soybean meal in 1953-54 is now expected to total around 4,850,000 tons, compared with 5,551,000 tons in 1952-53. Output during October-January totaled 1,974,000 tons, only 97,000 less than in those 4 months of 1952-53. Hence, a large part of the 700,000-ton drop in production expected for 1953-54 will come in February-September. This would mean around 15 percent less soybean meal than in the same period of 1953.

Production of cottonseed cake and meal is expected to be moderately larger during the remainder of the 1953-54 feeding season, while linseed meal production probably will be substantially larger. After allowing for imports, exports, changes in stocks, and expected supplies of peanut and copra meals, the total supply of the 5 major oilseed meals available for feeding during February-September this year may fall more than 400,000 tons below the 5,274,000 tons fed in that period of 1953.

Feed Prices Advance From Low Levels of Last Fall; Soybean Meal Relatively High

Prices of feed grains and most of the byproduct feeds have advanced from the low levels reached last fall. The weekly average price of No. 3 Yellow corn at Chicago in the first half of March was 14 cents per bushel above the seasonal low reached in early November, and about the same as a year earlier. Prices of oats and barley have weakened since early February, although they remained well above the seasonal low points of last summer and fall. Sorghum grain prices have advanced steadily since last October, reflecting the tightening supply situation. Prices of these 3 grains in early March were all somewhat below the levels of a year earlier.

Average prices received by farmers for each of the four feed grains have been below the national average support prices on the 1953 crops so far during the 1953-54 marketing seasons. The 1953 supports were available through January 1954 for oats, barley, and sorghum grains and will be available for corn through May 1954. The large volume of corn held under price support will have a strengthening effect on corn prices during the remainder of the marketing season. Prices of other feed grains will be influenced to a considerable extent by prospects for the 1954 crops to be harvested this summer. Larger acreages of these grains are indicated by farmers' plans in early March, and the 1954 support prices are 6 or 7 percent below those of 1953.

The index of wholesale prices of high-protein feeds advanced 19 percent from November to February. The February average was slightly higher than a year earlier. High-protein feed prices probably will continue higher during the next few months than in the same period of 1953, when prices of these feeds were declining. The price of soybean meal has been unusually high relative to prices of most other feeds in recent weeks. In March the price of soybean meal at Chicago averaged about $95 per ton, around $15 higher than a year earlier. This was $28 per ton above cottonseed meal at Memphis, and $22 above linseed meal at Minneapolis. This was much greater than the usual margin between prices of these feeds. This reflects the relatively short supply of soybean meal and the large supplies of the other two oilseed meals. Soybean meal prices probably will continue relatively high until the new crop meal becomes available this fall. In view of the comparatively small supply of soybean meal in prospect this spring and summer, soybean meal prices may strengthen further from the March level. Tankage and meat scrap prices have advanced during the past year, but these feeds are still low relative to most other protein feeds compared with average prices for the period 1947-50.

CCC Offers 1948 and 1949 Corn for Sale at Support Price

The Department of Agriculture announced on February 2 that 1948 and 1949-crop corn owned by Commodity Credit Corporation is available at the market price, but not less than the current support price for the county in which the corn is stored. The support price in the area where most of this corn is located ranges from around $1.50 to $1.60 per bushel. In mid-February the local market prices in the area were generally about 15 to 20 cents per bushel below the support, so the support price would be the sale price. All 1948 and 1949 corn is being offered for sale at the established price without regard for grade or quality. About the middle of March the CCC had on hand approximately 145 million bushels of 1948 corn and 25 million bushels of 1949 corn. While most of this corn will grade No. 3 or better, it is no longer considered suitable for storage.

January 1 Hay Stocks Below Average per Animal Unit

Stocks of hay on farms January 1 totaled 69.5 million tons, slightly larger than last year or the 1947-51 average. In relation to the increasing number of roughage-consuming livestock on farms, January 1 stocks were 7 percent below average and about the same as a year earlier. Disappearance of hay during May-December totaled 50.5 million tons, 7 percent above the 1946-50 average, but slightly smaller than the heavy disappearance in this period of 1952. The large disappearance of hay in the last halves of both 1952 and 1953 reflects drought conditions, particularly in the South, as well as the large number of cattle on farms. January 1 stocks were near record in the North Central and Western regions, but were again short in most of the Southern States. Stocks were very short in Missouri, 30 percent smaller than a year earlier.

Drought Relief Program

Drought conditions have prevailed in varying degrees over wide areas of the country since last summer. While 1953 feed grain production for the United States was not materially reduced, the drought has severely curtailed the growth of pastures, ranges, and other forage crops over large sections of the country. The Drought Emergency Program set up last July has been extended to include at least some counties in most of the States extending from Nevada and New Mexico on east to Virginia. Through March 19 orders for 643,000 tons of cottonseed meal, pellets, and slab had been approved by County U.S.D.A. Drought Committees, of which 598,000 tons had been shipped. Orders for mixed feed totaled 298,000 tons. Orders also had been approved for about 26 million bushels of corn, 15.5 million bushels of oats, and 2.2 million bushels of wheat. CCC stocks of oats were practically depleted early in December, and all remaining stocks have been committed. The bulk of the cottonseed meal sales also was made prior to December.

An area centering in the Southwest and extending up into Missouri has been hardest hit by the drought this past fall and winter. About 85 percent of the total tonnage of the feed shipped under the drought relief program was shipped to the six States Texas, Oklahoma, New Mexico, Kansas, Missouri, and Arkansas.

Fewer Hogs; But Slightly More Cattle on Farms

The number of hogs on farms has declined sharply during the past 2 years. The 48 million head on farms January 1 was 11 percent below those of a year earlier and 24 percent smaller than 2 years ago. Present indications are that the low point in hog production has passed. Last December farmers planned a 6 percent increase in the number of sows to farrow in the United States this spring. The actual expansion may be a little greater. A March report from 6 major hog States showed that for

Table 10.- Hay: Supply, May-December disappearance, and stocks January 1, average 1946-50, annual 1948-53

Year beginning May	Hay supply May 1 1/	May-December disappearance	Stocks on farms January 1 following	Roughage-consuming animal units fed annually 2/	May-December disappearance per animal unit	January 1 stocks per animal unit
	1,000 tons	1,000 tons	1,000 tons	Thousand	Tons	Tons
Average 1946-50	114,715	47,102	67,613	69,049	.68	.98
1948	110,912	45,872	65,040	67,193	.68	.97
1949	109,657	43,359	66,298	67,234	.64	.99
1950	116,707	46,987	69,720	69,307	.68	1.01
1951	123,003	49,915	73,088	72,226	.69	1.01
1952	119,303	51,177	68,126	75,421	.68	.90
1953	120,019	50,523	69,496	76,300	.66	.91

1/ Production plus farm stocks on May 1.

2/ Weight for roughage-consuming animal units fed annually shown in table 68, page 50, Feed Statistics, January 1953.

Table 11.- Numbers of livestock on farms in the United States, January 1, average 1947-51, and annually 1949-54

Year	All cattle, including milk cows	Milk cows	Hogs	All sheep	Horses and mules	Chickens 1/
	Thousands	Thousands	Thousands	Thousands	Thousands	Thousands
Average 1947-51	78,909	24,379	57,872	32,648	8,851	449,389
1949	76,830	23,862	56,257	30,943	8,498	430,876
1950	77,963	23,853	58,852	29,826	7,781	456,549
1951	82,025	23,722	62,852	30,635	7,067	442,657
1952	87,844	23,369	63,582	32,088	6,243	449,925
1953	93,637	24,094	54,294	31,861	5,551	429,731
1954 2/	94,677	24,735	48,179	30,902	5,035	439,271

1/ Number on farms, not including commercial broilers.

2/ Preliminary.

the 6 States farmers had increased their intentions from 6 percent over a year earlier to 9 percent. Most of the increase is in early pigs (December-February). Moreover, farmers indicated that 5 percent more summer pigs were planned than in 1953. Increased hog production is in response to the favorable hog-corn price ratio. The hog-corn ratio based on United States average prices has been above 15.0 during most of the past year and was 17.7 in February compared with the 1933-52 average of 12.6.

The number of cattle and calves on farms January 1 reached a record of 94.7 million head, 1 percent larger than on January 1, 1953. There was practically no change in the total number of beef cattle, although beef breeding stock continued the upward trend of recent years, but at a slower rate. The number of cattle on feed was 9 percent smaller than a year earlier, although the second largest on record. Dairy cattle numbers increased 2 percent, continuing the slow upward trend of recent years.

The number of chickens on farms January 1 was 2 percent larger than a year earlier, and poultry production probably will be a little larger in 1954 than in 1953. The number of horses and mules declined 9 percent during 1953 and sheep and lambs declined 3 percent.

The total number of grain-consuming animal units being fed during 1953-54 is now estimated at 167.0 million, slightly less than in 1952-53.

Argentine Corn Crop of 235 Million Bushels in Prospect

The 1954 Argentine crop to be harvested this spring, on the basis of indications in March, will total around 235 million bushels, 95 million more than in 1953 and the largest since 1944. However, this would be about a fourth less than the average for 1938-44. Exports of corn from Argentina probably will be larger in the 1954-55 April-March marketing year than in any of the past 4 or 5 years. Exports ranged from 18 to 24 million bushels during the marketing years beginning 1950-52. During April-January of the 1953-54 season, 40 million bushels were exported.

CORN ACREAGE ALLOTMENTS FOR 1954

Corn acreage allotments totaling 46,995,504 acres have been proclaimed by the Secretary of Agriculture for the 1954 crop in the commercial corn-producing area. This is 16.5 percent below the 1951-53 average of 56,257,000 planted acres in the commercial area and 17.6 percent below the 57.0 million acres planted in 1953. The reduction in acreage from the 1953 level, however, varies somewhat by States and counties, depending on whether the 1953 acreage was above or below the base period acreage for the local area. Corn acreage allotments were in effect in only one other year since World War II (1950). They were in effect each year from 1938 to 1942. Farmers must plant within their acreage allotments to be eligible for the 1954 price support.

Planting intentions of farmers indicate that the 1954 corn acreage will be reduced 2 percent in Illinois, 5 percent in Iowa and Minnesota, 7 percent in Nebraska, 3 percent in Kansas, and 1 percent in South Dakota. These reductions are small compared with the reductions called for under acreage allotments. However, farmers did not have their individual acreage allotments at the time their acreage intentions were reported, and further adjustments may be made in their acreage plans before planting time. Nevertheless, there is generally more widespread overplanting of acreage allotments for corn than for other basic crops. This results from the fact that many farmers produce corn largely as a feed for their own livestock and not as a cash crop. Such farmers apparently are more concerned with maintaining their livestock production than in retaining eligibility for price supports on corn. In the South, where cotton acreage is being reduced, a larger corn acreage is in prospect.

Table 12.- Corn: Acreage, yield, and production in the 1954 commercial and non-commercial areas, 1948-53

Year	Commercial area 1/			Non-commercial area			Commercial area as a percentage of U. S.	
	Planted acreage	Yield 2/	Production	Planted acreage	Yield 2/	Production	Acreage	Production
	Million acres	Bushels	Million bushels	Million acres	Bushels	Million bushels	Percent	Percent
1948	56.8	50.8	2,886	28.8	25.0	719	66.4	80.1
1949	58.3	43.6	2,539	28.5	24.6	700	67.2	78.4
1950	53.1	43.5	2,310	29.8	25.1	748	64.0	75.5
1951	55.9	40.2	2,247	27.4	23.8	652	67.1	77.5
1952	55.9	48.9	2,732	26.5	20.6	547	67.8	83.3
1953 3/	57.0	45.2	2,576	24.4	24.6	601	70.0	81.1

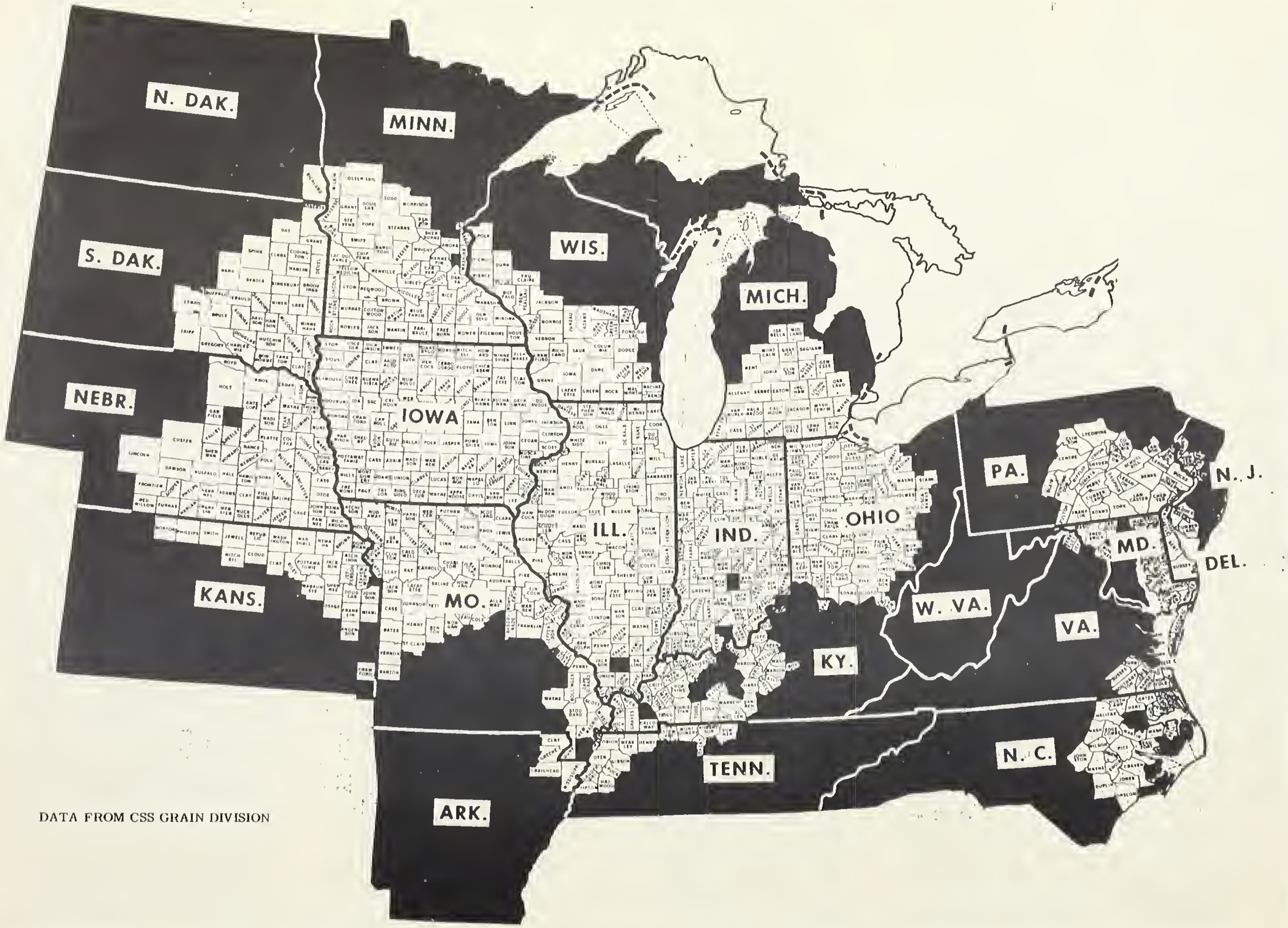
1/ Acreage and production for each year in the area determined as the 1954 commercial corn-producing area.

2/ Yield per planted acre.

3/ Preliminary.

The "commercial corn producing area" is composed of (a) "all counties in which average production of corn (excluding corn used as silage) during the preceding 10 calendar years, after adjustment for abnormal weather conditions, is 450 bushels or more per farm, and 4 bushels or more per acre of farm land in the county, and (b) all counties bordering on the commercial corn-producing area which the Secretary finds will likely produce a comparable amount of corn during the year for which such area is determined." Because of the changing pattern of corn production by counties, the commercial area shifts somewhat from year to year. The 1954 commercial area includes 834 counties, 3 less than the commercial area in 1950. Since 1950,51 counties have

1954 COMMERCIAL CORN AREA



DATA FROM CSS GRAIN DIVISION

U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

NEG. 601-54(3) AGRICULTURAL MARKETING SERVICE dropped from the commercial area as a result of a decline in corn production. These were mostly in the western and southern fringes of the commercial area. On the other hand, production has been increasing in the eastern part of the commercial area and 48 counties have been added in this section, largely offsetting the reduction in the South and West.

The total acreage and production of corn in recent years in the counties making up the 1954 commercial area is shown in table 12. In recent years about two-thirds of the corn acreage of the country has been in the commercial area. Yields in the area have averaged about 45 bushels in the commercial area in recent years, much higher than the 25-bushel yield in the non-commercial area. The area produces about 80 percent of the total crop of the entire country.

The United States Department of Agriculture recently announced that farmers who plant between 90 and 100 percent of their 1954 corn acreage allotment will be treated in future programs as if the corn allotment were fully planted in 1954. Many farmers might otherwise feel that they should come as close to their current allotments as possible in order to protect their interests in any future allotment program. This will make it unnecessary for a farmer who can plant 90 percent or more of his allotment in whole fields to split another field and plant part of it to corn just to round out his allotment.

DOWNWARD TREND IN CORN ACREAGE MORE THAN OFFSET BY HIGHER YIELD PER ACRE

Farmers indicated their intentions on March 1 to plant 81.0 million acres to corn in 1954, slightly less than in 1953 and the smallest in 60 years. This slight decline continues the down-trend in corn acreage that has been underway since the thirties. Following a long-term upward trend, corn acreage reached 100 million acres for the first time in 1909. From 1909 to 1933 the acreage harvested remained at around 100 million acres. The decline in acreage of the past 20 years brought the 1949-53 planted acreage to 83.3 million acres, 22 percent below the record 1929-33 average. The prospective corn acreage this year is about equal to the level reached in 1894, when 80.1 million acres were harvested. (See cover chart.)

Corn production, on the other hand, has been increasing as a result of the sharp increase in yield per acre. Crops of over 3 billion bushels have been produced in 7 of the past 10 years. Production exceeded 3 billion bushels in only 3 years prior to 1944. Much of the increase in corn yields and production has occurred since the beginning of World War II. From 1937-41 to 1949-53 corn acreage declined 9 percent; while yield per acre increased 34 percent and production increased 22 percent. (See table 15.)

Drought conditions in the mid-thirties played a major role in the low production reached in that period. However, since 1937-41, nearly all of the increase in yield per acre and production has resulted from improved production practices and inter-regional shifts in acreage. Use of hybrid seed

Table 13.- Corn: Acreage, yield, and production, and factors contributing to increased production, 1929-53

Year	Corn crop - United States					Fertilizer used in Corn Belt States 1/	Tractors on farms U. S. 2/
	Planted acreage	Yield per planted acre	Production	Planted with hybrid seed			
	1,000 acres	Bushels	1,000 bushels	1,000 acres	Percent of total	1,000 tons	Thousands
1929	99,130	25.4	2,515,937	---	---	704	827
1930	103,915	20.0	2,080,130	---	---	715	920
1931	109,364	23.6	2,575,927	---	---	558	997
1932	113,024	25.9	2,930,352	---	---	331	1,022
1933	109,830	21.8	2,397,593	143	0.1	375	1,019
1934	100,563	14.4	1,448,920	372	.4	490	1,016
1935	99,974	23.0	2,299,363	1,140	1.1	596	1,048
1936	101,959	14.8	1,505,689	3,166	3.1	724	1,125
1937	97,174	27.2	2,642,978	7,632	7.9	729	1,230
1938	94,473	27.0	2,548,753	14,079	14.9	679	1,370
1939	91,639	28.2	2,580,985	20,618	22.5	683	1,445
1940	88,692	27.7	2,457,146	27,011	30.5	802	1,545
1941	86,837	30.5	2,651,889	34,134	39.3	913	1,675
1942	88,818	34.5	3,068,562	41,199	46.4	1,117	1,885
1943	94,341	31.4	2,965,980	49,428	52.4	1,299	2,100
1944	95,475	32.3	3,087,982	56,475	59.2	1,616	2,215
1945	89,261	32.1	2,868,795	57,778	64.7	1,919	2,422
1946	88,898	36.2	3,217,076	61,271	68.9	2,388	2,560
1947	85,038	27.7	2,354,739	61,676	72.5	2,585	2,735
1948	85,522	42.2	3,605,078	64,990	76.0	3,074	2,980
1949	86,745	37.3	3,238,618	67,906	78.3	3,002	3,315
1950	82,858	36.9	3,057,803	64,628	78.0	3,218	3,609
1951	83,283	34.8	2,899,169	67,994	81.6	3,446	3,940
1952	82,409	39.8	3,279,403	3/69,718	84.6	4/4,185	4,170
1953	81,403	39.0	3,176,615	3/70,251	86.3	5/	4,400

1/ Fertilizer used on farms in Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, Minnesota, Iowa, and Missouri. Compiled from reports of National Fertilizer Association.

2/ Estimates of the Agricultural Marketing Service adjusted to numbers reported by the Bureau of the Census for census years.

3/ Unofficial revisions derived by applying percentage of corn acreage planted with hybrid seed by regions, published in July 1953, to all corn acreages planted by regions in 1952 and 1953, as reported in the Annual Crop Summary in December 1953.

4/ Preliminary.

5/ Data not yet available.

Table 14.- Corn: Acreage planted and percentage planted with hybrid seed, average 1930-39, 1940-49, and annual 1949-54

Year	North Atlantic	East North Central	West North Central	South Atlantic	South Central	Western	United States
	Acres planted by regions						
	1,000 acres	1,000 acres	1,000 acres	1,000 acres	1,000 acres	1.000 acres	1,000 acres
Average							
1930-39	2,385	20,904	41,045	11,779	23,514	2,564	102,191
1940-49	2,378	20,571	35,861	10,108	13,548	1,497	83,963
1949	2,335	22,031	37,102	9,221	14,841	1,215	86,745
1950	2,341	20,354	33,961	9,432	15,596	1,174	82,858
1951	2,348	21,193	35,842	9,054	13,706	1,135	83,283
1952	2,373	21,354	35,166	9,218	13,254	1,044	82,409
1953 1/	2,406	21,875	35,847	8,689	11,584	1,002	81,403
1954 2/	2,438	21,874	34,594	8,849	12,179	1,103	81,037
	Percentage planted with hybrid seed						
	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent
Average							
1930-39	1.2	10.9	7.1	.1	.1	.2	5.0
1940-49	52.9	89.6	76.3	13.5	19.2	21.6	58.8
1949	84.1	97.9	92.1	32.7	44.5	50.0	78.3
1950	86.3	98.1	92.0	36.1	47.7	48.5	78.0
1951	88.3	98.5	93.1	42.8	53.0	48.1	81.6
1952	90.6	98.3	94.7	52.2	58.6	53.4	84.6
1953 1/	91.9	99.0	94.0	54.7	63.8	61.7	86.3

1/ Preliminary. 2/ Based on reports from farmers indicating their intentions about March 1.

Table 15.- Corn: Changes in acreage, yield, and production, by regions, from 1937-41 to 1949-53

Item	Unit	North Atlantic	East North Central	West North Central	South Atlantic	South Central	Western	United States
Planted acreage								
1937-41	1,000 acres	2,411	19,780	33,342	11,716	22,504	2,010	91,763
1949-53	1,000 acres	2,361	21,362	35,584	9,123	13,796	1,114	83,340
Pct. change	Pct.	-2.1	8.0	6.7	-22.1	-38.7	-44.6	-9.2
Yield per acre 1/								
1937-41	Bu.	39.0	44.0	30.0	16.8	17.7	13.4	28.1
1949-53	Bu.	45.5	51.7	38.1	24.1	22.7	24.9	37.6
Pct. change	Pct.	16.7	17.5	27.0	43.5	28.2	85.8	33.8
Production								
1937-41	Mil. bu.	94	869	993	197	397	26	2,576
1949-53	Mil. bu.	107	1,105	1,356	220	314	28	3,130
Pct. change	Pct.	13.8	27.2	36.6	11.7	-20.9	7.7	21.5

1/ Yield per planted acre. Average of the annual yields per acre for each period.

has been a major factor contributing to the increase in yield per acre. In 1953, 86 percent of the total United States acreage was planted with hybrid seed. The increase in the use of hybrid seed by regions is shown in table 14. The use of corn hybrids expanded rapidly in the Corn Belt from 1935 to 1945, and in recent years it has been used almost exclusively in that area. Use of corn hybrids continues to expand in areas outside of the Corn Belt as suitable varieties are developed. In 1953 corn hybrids were planted on over 90 percent of the corn acreage in the North Atlantic region, over 60 percent in the South Central and Western Regions, and about 55 percent of the acreage in the South Atlantic Region.

Increasing use of fertilizer in the corn production also has been important in raising yields per acre. Data on the quantity of fertilizer used in corn production are not available. But an indication of the trend in the use of fertilizer in corn production is revealed by data on the total quantity of fertilizer used in the 6 Corn Belt States--Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, Iowa, Minnesota, and Missouri. Farmers in these six States used over 4 million tons of fertilizer in 1952 compared with less than a million tons just prior to World War II. In addition to the increase in the tonnage of fertilizer used, there has been an increase in the plant food content of fertilizer.

More tractors and more power equipment on farms have made increased corn production possible with reduced labor requirements. It also has permitted an increased proportion of our feed grain supply to go into the production of livestock and livestock products for food. While the effect of mechanically powered equipment on corn yields cannot be readily determined, it has made possible more rapid and efficient seed bed preparation, planting, tillage, and harvesting of corn. In wet seasons or in other years when proper timing is important, this has been a factor in increasing corn production. The number of tractors on farms is shown here to indicate the trend in power equipment since 1930. It is estimated that around 90 percent of the corn acreage is now prepared for planting by tractor power and around 80 percent of the corn harvested for grain is picked with mechanical pickers.

The fairly sharp decline in corn acreage in the Southern and Western regions, and the increase in acreage in the Corn Belt since 1937-41 also has contributed to the increase in the national average yield per acre. From 1937-41 to 1949-53, the acreage planted to corn increased 7 or 8 percent in the high yielding North Central regions. In the lower yielding areas of the South and West, corn acreage was reduced materially. It is estimated that these area shifts in corn production from the lower to the higher producing regions since 1937-41 have resulted in about a 6 percent increase in the United States average yield per acre. Although conditions during both periods were generally favorable for corn production, differences in weather between the two periods undoubtedly caused some of the difference in yields. In the Western States, the continuation of drought conditions in Colorado and neighboring States into the 1937-41 period materially reduced yield per acre in the first 5-year period and explained some of the marked increase from that time to the 1949-53 period. On the other hand, the severe droughts of 1952 and 1953 reduced corn yields over wide areas of the South, and prevented an even greater increase in yield per acre in the Southern regions.

Table 16.- Production, stocks, and foreign trade in byproduct feeds, foreign
trade in feed grains, and corn and barley processing,
January and February 1954, with comparisons 1/

Commodity	Production					Stocks 2/				
	1952-53 season 3/	Jan. 1953	1953-54			Oct. 1, 1952	Feb. 1, 1953	1953-54		
			Nov.	Dec.	Jan.			Dec. 1	Jan. 1	Feb. 1
	1,000 tons	1,000 tons	1,000 tons	1,000 tons	1,000 tons	1,000 tons	1,000 tons	1,000 tons	1,000 tons	1,000 tons
Byproduct feeds										
Cottonseed cake and meal	2,673.0	310.7	361.5	340.9	335.0	82.0	194.0	4/163.0	4/109.7	4/109.2
Soybean cake and meal	5,551.3	506.5	481.6	494.3	492.7	51.5	109.2	78.1	104.8	128.6
Linseed cake and meal	457.7	47.0	39.1	49.4	62.7	17.3	21.6	33.0	30.5	18.3
Peanut cake and meal	42.0	3.6	5.3	4.9	5.4	.4	2.7	2.2	1.5	2.0
Copra cake and meal	116.1	9.1	9.4	9.3	10.4	6.9	7.1	5.7	3.6	3.1
Total	8,840.1	876.9	896.9	898.8	906.2	158.1	334.6	282.0	250.1	261.2
Corn gluten feed and meal	942.4	77.6	76.2	74.2	72.7	5/	5/	5/	5/	5/
Brewers dried grains	228.7	16.7	14.6	13.5	13.7	3.0	1.8	4.1	2.5	2.0
Distillers dried grains	185.7	14.1	23.1	22.9	19.6	1.7	1.1	3.5	1.7	2.0
Wheat millfeeds	4,455.6	397.7	362.2	365.7	380.2	5/	5/	5/	5/	5/
Rice millfeeds	263.1	24.4	33.7	26.6	27.5	5/	5/	5/	5/	5/
Alfalfa meal	1,064.7	29.8	34.8	27.6	21.0	294.1	193.2	259.3	183.9	129.4
Fish meal	214.6	1.7	5.5	7.6	3.9	5/	5/	5/	5/	5/
Dry or powdered skim milk	12.7	.6	.8	1.0	1.0	5/	5/	5/	5/	5/

Commodity	Foreign trade									
	Imports					Exports				
	1952-53 season	Jan. 1953	1953-54			1952-53 season	Jan. 1953	1953-54		
			Nov.	Dec.	Jan.			Nov.	Dec.	Jan.
	1,000 tons	1,000 tons	1,000 tons	1,000 tons	1,000 tons	1,000 tons	1,000 tons	1,000 tons	1,000 tons	1,000 tons
Cottonseed cake and meal	135.6	10.7	4.0	6.6	9.3	48.7	6/	4.1	.4	5.1
Soybean cake and meal	41.1	4.5	0	.1	.8	46.8	2.0	14.1	12.1	4.0
Linseed cake and meal	26.4	1.5	0	.1	.1	6/	6/	.3	3.8	1.2
Peanut cake and meal	3.5	6/	0	0	6/	6/	0	0	.5	0
Copra cake and meal	97.1	6.9	6.4	7.0	5.9	0	0	0	0	0
Total	303.7	23.6	10.4	13.8	16.1	95.5	2.0	18.5	16.8	10.3
Wheat millfeeds	261.1	17.5	13.8	20.0	20.7	1.4	.1	0	0	.2
Fish meal	114.7	7.7	8.1	8.9	6.5	5/	5/	5/	5/	5/
Tankage	19.6	.7	.9	1.5	1.0	0	0	0	0	0
	1,000 bu.	1,000 bu.	1,000 bu.	1,000 bu.	1,000 bu.	1,000 bu.	1,000 bu.	1,000 bu.	1,000 bu.	1,000 bu.
Feed grains										
Corn, including meal	926	97	111	96	64	140,445	16,089	13,146	10,808	6,860
Oats, including oatmeal	68,563	7,099	14,019	10,724	2,294	4,143	238	310	462	186
Barley, including malt	24,910	1,532	6,310	4,152	421	37,027	1,375	2,176	951	416
Sorghum grain	---	---	---	---	---	10,396	0	375	154	4

Commodity	Grain processing or use						
	1952-53 season 3/	1952-53		1953-54			
		Dec.	Jan.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Jan.
	1,000 bu.	1,000 bu.	1,000 bu.	1,000 bu.	1,000 bu.	1,000 bu.	1,000 bu.
Corn							
Wet-processing	129,982	9,965	10,700	10,438	10,515	10,240	10,021
Distilled spirits and alcohol	8/17,322	1,237	1,520	2,251	2,204	7/2,079	7/1,989
Barley							
Malt liquors	78,369	5,836	5,760	6,586	4,942	7/5,218	7/5,040
Distilled spirits and alcohol	4,012	310	381	577	489	7/497	7/497

1/ Data compiled from reports of the Bureau of the Census, Agricultural Marketing Service, Fish and Wildlife Service of the Department of the Interior, and Price, Waterhouse, and Company, New York.

2/ At processors' plants.

3/ October-September year for all items except oats and barley, which is July-June.

4/ The CCC owned 38,000 tons on December 1, 31,100 tons on January 1, and 6,100 tons on February 1 not included in stocks at processors plants.

5/ Not reported.

6/ Less than 50 tons.

7/ Preliminary.

Table 17 .- Feed grains: Stocks by quarters United States 1952-54 1/

Year	January 1	April 1	July 1	October 1
	1,000 bushels	1,000 bushels	1,000 bushels	1,000 bushels
		CORN		
1952	2,357,373	1,511,942	969,646	486,526
1953	2,558,461	1,794,445	1,263,240	768,790
1954	2,676,110			
		OATS		
1952	913,217	563,712	283,155	1,098,967
1953	859,386	503,767	254,191	1,071,161
1954	841,330			
		BARLEY		
1952	203,411	131,974	73,418	221,262
1953	164,253	98,221	51,344	235,659
1954	177,110			
		SORGHUM GRAINS		
1952	148,936	2/	2/	9,935
1953	54,085	2/	2/	7,318
1954	76,815			

1/ Stocks in all positions, including stocks on farms, at terminal markets, interior mills, elevators, and warehouses, and Government-owned. 2/ Total stocks not reported.

Table 18.- Feed grains: Distribution of January 1 stocks, United States, average 1948-52, annual 1952-54

Year	Farm	Terminal market	Commodity Credit Corporation 1/	Interior mill, elevator, and warehouse	Total
	1,000 bushels	1,000 bushels	1,000 bushels	1,000 bushels	1,000 bushels
Average			CORN		
1948-52	2,050,101	45,311	173,737	83,370	2,352,519
1952	1,892,173	51,954	304,712	108,534	2,357,373
1953	2,154,757	62,039	243,717	97,948	2,558,461
1954	2,138,464	43,106	394,060	100,430	2,676,110
Average			OATS		
1948-52	827,895	17,826	68	37,830	883,619
1952	845,476	26,931	206	40,604	913,217
1953	786,560	25,041	171	47,614	859,386
1954	778,541	18,295	260	44,234	841,330
Average			BARLEY		
1948-52	128,298	26,985	1,630	54,409	211,322
1952	124,046	25,483	2,090	51,792	203,411
1953	98,680	13,415	513	51,645	164,253
1954	107,770	12,659	28	56,653	177,110
Average			SORGHUM GRAINS		
1948-52	54,684	20,437	48,613	732	124,466
1952	52,474	35,279	60,785	398	148,936
1953	23,803	4,788	24,789	705	54,085
1954	36,244	8,141	32,421	9	76,815

1/ In bins or other storage owned or controlled by CCC; other CCC owned grain is included in stocks at the other positions.

Table 19.- Feed grains: Receipts at primary markets, February, average, 1947-51, 1952, 1953, and November--February 1953-54

Item	February			1953-54			
	Average 1947-51	1952	1953	Nov.	Dec.	Jan.	Feb.
	1,000 bushels	1,000 bushels	1,000 bushels	1,000 bushels	1,000 bushels	1,000 bushels	1,000 bushels
Corn, 12 markets 1/	25,808	32,248	18,190	48,752	18,424	21.579	25,032
Oats, 12 markets 1/	5,754	5,826	5,830	6,363	3,131	4,703	4,680
Barley, 4 markets 2/	5,660	9,481	6,692	8,687	8,860	8,612	12,386

1/ Chicago, Milwaukee, Minneapolis, Duluth, St. Louis, Kansas City, Peoria, Omaha, Indianapolis, Sioux City, St. Joseph, and Wichita.

2/ Minneapolis, Milwaukee, Chicago, and Duluth.

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